

I believe that the NIBIN should be expanded, and that is why I have co-sponsored the Ballistics, Law Assistance, and Safety Technology Act or BLAST which would require licensed firearms manufacturers to test fire firearms, prepare ballistics images of fired bullets and casings of new firearms. Expanding NIBIN to include these ballistics images would increase ATF's crime gun tracing capabilities. ATF agents could quickly identify firearms even when criminals had obliterated the serial number by using the ballistics images of cartridge cases and bullets recovered at crime scenes. In fact, they could identify the firearm used in the crime without actually recovering that firearm. This bill contains strict provisions stating that ballistics information of individual guns may not be used for prosecutorial purposes unless law enforcement officials have a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that ballistics information would assist in the investigation of that crime.

I believe this is sensible legislation that will strengthen law enforcement's ability to effectively track down criminals and I urge my colleagues to support it.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT

TRIBUTE TO STEVE JORDAN

• Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant and marine scientist, Steve Jordan. Steve is retiring after a distinguished 28-year career with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in higher educational institutions in Maryland and with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of service and contributions to improving our research and management capabilities in the Chesapeake Bay and one of the Bay's premier research laboratories, the Oxford Cooperative Lab.

Steve has dedicated nearly three decades of his life to solving some of the key living marine resource problems of the Chesapeake Bay, the diseases that have devastated the Bay's oyster populations, the loss of critical habitat, and the impacts of pollutants and low dissolved oxygen on the Bay's finfish and shellfish populations. A graduate of The American University, Steve worked his way through a master's degree in Biology at Morehead State College in Kentucky and a Ph.D. in marine, estuarine and environmental science from the University of Maryland. He was selected as a Sea Grant Fellow with the University of Maryland and Horn Point Environmental Laboratory and served as a faculty research associate with the University of Maryland Eastern Shore before being named to head up the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Habitat Impacts Program which managed

several aspects of Maryland's participation in the Chesapeake Bay Program.

I came to know Steve 10 years ago when he was appointed director of the Oxford Cooperative Laboratory in Oxford, MD. For those who are not familiar with the Oxford Lab, it is a unique partnership between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. Located on a tidal tributary of the Chesapeake Bay, the lab has long been considered one of the preeminent centers in the Nation for its work in diagnosing all aspects of diseases, infectious and non-infectious, which affect living marine resources. At the time that Steve joined the facility, the laboratory was 33 years old and in great need of capital improvements. The poor physical condition of the facility was contributing significantly to low employee morale and a high staff attrition rate. Thanks to Steve's creative leadership, a major renovation and expansion of the laboratory was completed, leveraging a \$750,000 Federal appropriation into a \$2 million project through the use of DNR construction crews. The project not only served as a model for interagency cooperation, but provided substantial savings to the taxpayers as well. Steve also added new research programs, modern equipment, and helped bring about a renewed workplace atmosphere.

In addition to his management responsibilities and achievements, Steve has continued to conduct research that is vital to improving our understanding of the Bay's living marine resources. He has published or contributed to numerous studies and symposia on oyster diseases, lesions in fish, and other critical problems. He has chaired or participated in many work groups examining key living resource research needs and management strategies and is a member or leader of half a dozen professional associations including the American Fisheries Society, National Shellfisheries Association, Atlantic Estuarine Research Society, and National Association of Marine Laboratories. In recognition of his outstanding service, Steve has received numerous awards and commendations, including certificates of appreciation from both the Chesapeake Bay Program and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and an excellence award from Maryland Governor Schaefer for the Chesapeake Executive Council.

The efforts of Steve Jordan throughout the past 28 years have earned him the respect and admiration of everyone with whom he has worked. The Chesapeake Bay restoration effort has been enhanced due to his labors and the Cooperative Oxford Laboratory has been renewed. I want to extend my personal congratulations and thanks for his many years of hard work and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavors.●

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PADUCAH GASEOUS DIFFUSION PLANT

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant and all its workers, past and present, on the occasion of the facility's upcoming 50th anniversary, which will be celebrated by the Paducah community on October 24th.

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant is currently the only operating uranium enrichment facility in the United States. Production of enriched uranium began in Paducah in 1952, and the plant has operated continuously since that time. Until 1964, the plant's output was almost entirely for the purposes of national defense as it produced fissionable material for our country's nuclear arsenal. The Paducah workers during that period played a vital role in securing our freedom and helped America prevail in the cold war. Unfortunately, the Federal Government didn't always do right by the workers, who were often exposed to hazardous conditions and materials which would later sicken and even kill some. Even today, we are still working to correct this shameful injustice.

After 1964, Paducah production began shifting to enriched uranium for commercial nuclear reactors; helping to provide the benefits of cleanly generated electric power to millions of people. After 1973, Paducah no longer enriched uranium for military purposes. However, the plant continues to help create a more secure world as the U.S. recipient for nuclear materials from the former Soviet arsenal. Under the Megatons to Megawatts program, nuclear weapons are dismantled in Russia and the nuclear material is shipped to Paducah where it is repackaged and shipped worldwide for civilian electric power production.

Over the last half century, a number of companies have operated the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company, (later Union Carbide) was the original operator of the plant. Successor operators included Martin Marietta Energy Systems, Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, and finally United States Enrichment Corporation, which took over direct operation of the plant in 1999, and continues as the operator today. Today 1,500 workers are employed at the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. What is remarkable is that despite the past sins of the Federal Government, these employees remain dedicated to their jobs and the important work they perform every day. It is a testament to those individuals in particular and this region in general.

In addition to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant itself, an entire complex of supporting plants were built to support enrichment activities at Paducah. Two electric generating plants were constructed to supply the large power demands of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. These were the TVA

Shawnee Steam Plant in western McCracken County, Kentucky, and the EEI plant in Joppa, Illinois. Additionally, a uranium hexafluoride plant was constructed in Metropolis, IL. Together, these four facilities comprise the economic and industrial heart of the region.

In recent years, we have learned that there were often risks associated with work at Paducah, particularly during the earlier years of its operation. Some workers were exposed to cancer-causing chemicals and radiological hazards. Many of these workers have now benefited from the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program, which I am proud to have helped bring into existence. Working alongside the union representing the workers, I have also fought to make sure that medical screening is available to all workers so that they may be tested and treated for any problems they incur as a result of working at the plant. We have also embarked upon the task of cleaning up some of the legacy waste materials left on the site. The Department of Energy's recently announced DUF6 conversion plant will be a huge step in this direction, as it will clean up thousands of cylinders of depleted uranium hexafluoride which have been stored on the site for decades. The conversion plant additionally will add new jobs to the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant complex.

While significant challenges lie ahead for America's domestic uranium enrichment industry, it is appropriate to pause on this occasion to commemorate the Golden Anniversary of the Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, and the dedicated service of all the employees over the last half century. The workers at Paducah today continue the fine tradition of service, commitment, and productivity. I am sure they are up to any future challenge to be met in keeping a viable domestic uranium enrichment capability.●

TRIBUTE TO SCARLOTTE DEUPREE

● Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Scarlotte Deupree, Miss Alabama 2002. Ms. Deupree was recently named First Runner Up in the 2003 Miss America Pageant.

The accomplishments of Ms. Deupree are many. She coordinated Alabama's first Women in Literacy Summit in July, 2001 and was awarded a National Daily Point of Light for her work to promote literacy. She is a Distinguished Partner of the Literacy Council of Central Alabama and has been a certified literacy tutor with the Laubach Literacy Council International.

Ms. Deupree is also a former co-chair of the Sylacauga Adult Literacy Council and an instructor with the Adult Literacy Education Resource, ALERT. She is a graduate of the Sylacauga High School Honors Program and is an English major at Samford University in Birmingham, AL.

Ms. Deupree is the daughter of James and Joy Deupree of Birmingham. Scarlotte Deupree is a remarkable young woman, and we are proud to have her serve as our Miss Alabama.●

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE M.D. CROCKER, U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I honor and bring to the Senate's attention the exceptional judicial career and service of Myron D. Crocker, U.S. District Court Judge for the Eastern District of California.

A graduate of California State University at Fresno and the University of California's Boalt Hall School of Law, he was appointed to the Federal bench by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959. Judge Crocker continued to carry an active caseload after taking senior status in 1981. He is retiring after 43 years of dedicated service as a federal judge.

Judge Crocker served under 10 presidents, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and George W. Bush. Our current, President George W. Bush, was just 13 years old when Judge Crocker was named to the bench.

He is believed to have served longer than any other sitting Federal judge in the Nation. He has presided over many high profile cases in the Fresno area and during his travels throughout the United States as a visiting judge.

Judge Crocker is well respected throughout the legal community. He has served California and the United States with great distinction. I am pleased to pay tribute to him today and I encourage my colleagues to join me in wishing Judge Crocker and his family the very best as he celebrates his retirement from the Eastern District.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2001, the Secretary of the Senate, on October 5, 2001, during the recess of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 2558. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the collection of data on benign brain-related tumors through the national program of cancer registries.

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 669. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 127 Social Street in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, as the "Alphonse F. Auclair Post Office Building".

H.R. 670. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Street in Newport, Rhode Is-

land, as the "Bruce F. Cotta Post Office Building".

H.R. 5205. An act to amend the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to use estimated amounts in determining the service longevity component of the Federal benefit payment required to be paid under such Act to certain retirees of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5316. An act to establish a user fee system that provides for an equitable return to the Federal Government for the occupancy and use of National Forest System lands and facilities by organizational camps that serve the youth and disabled adults of America, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5349. An act to facilitate the use of a portion of the former O'Reilly General Hospital in Springfield, Missouri, by the local Boys and Girls Club through the release of the reversionary interest and other interests retained by the United States in 1955 when the land was conveyed to the State of Missouri.

H.R. 5361. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1830 South Lake Drive in Lexington, South Carolina, as the "Floyd Spence Post Office Building".

H.R. 5400. An act to authorize the President of the United States to agree to certain amendments to the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States concerning the establishment of a Border Environment Cooperation Commission and a North American Development Bank, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5439. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 111 West Washington Street in Bowling Green, Ohio, as the "Delbert L. Latta Post Office Building".

H.R. 5574. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 South Main Street in Glenville, Georgia, as the "Michael Lee Woodcock Post Office".

H.R. 5598. An act to provide for improvement of Federal education research, statistics, evaluation, information, and dissemination, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5601. An act to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to make improvements to and reauthorize programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 406. Concurrent resolution honoring and commending the Lao Veterans of America, Laotian and Hmong veterans of the Vietnam War, and their families, for their historic contributions to the United States.

H. Con. Res. 467. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music.

H. Con. Res. 486. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month.

H. Con. Res. 487. Concurrent resolution authorizing the printing as a House document of a volume consisting of the transcripts of the ceremonial meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate in New York City on September 6, 2002, and a collection of statements by Members of the House of Representatives and Senate from the Congressional Record on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

H. Con. Res. 504. Concurrent resolution congratulating the PONY League baseball